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Contributions and Communications of any description are to be addressed to

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THE OLD COUNTRY-SEATS OF NEW YORK ISLAND.

PART FIRST.

In the last May number of this JOURNAL, we announced our intention to cultivate in its pages the Archæology of New York City, and invited aid in illustrating that subject. There was propriety in the plan, because our Society is not merely a Numismatic one; yet little attempt has thus far been made to carry it out, and it remains a "cadre" to be filled up in the future.

In the second article of the same number, we commented on the unparalleled destruction of edifices, public and private, which, from the necessities of commerce and the narrowness of the locality, has long been taking place on our island, to the despair of the antiquary. A particular class of buildings, and that not the least interesting, the once numerous and elegant suburban mansions of the wealthy, now generally demolished or converted to base uses, may deserve the reader's attention, if associated with some unfamiliar facts and with our personal reminiscences of more than a third of a century.

The opulent merchants of our city, remarkable, as they were from the first, for a luxurious and self-indulgent life, invariably possessed, in times before watering-places became fashionable, each one his summer residence within a few miles' distance of the town. It was always known as the proprietor's "Place", a word of Dutch origin in this sense, and one of the few local terms from that source which have escaped the researches of Bartlett in his "Dictionary of Americanisms".

The charming homes and pleasure-grounds on the banks of the East River, which were first made distasteful to their owners by the establishment of the penal institutions on Blackwell's Island, and are now entirely abandoned, as dwellings, by their former occupants, have been immortalized by Diedrich Knickerbocker in the veracious chronicle which he gave to the world on the day of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6), 1809. He speaks of the domains of the "great Hardenbroeck",

"which embraced the whole chain of Apulian mountains that stretched along the gulf of Kip's Bay, and from part of which his descendants have been expelled in latter ages by the powerful clans of the Joneses and Schermerhorns".*

In the poetic prose wherewith he commemorates the voyage of the heroes of Communipaw to Hell-Gate, he contrasts two aspects of the scene, unaware that the latter would be even more transitory than the former.

"Wherever the voyagers turned their eyes, a new creation seemed to bloom around. No signs of human thrift appeared to check the delicious wildness of nature, who here revelled in all her luxuriant variety. Those hills, now bristled, like the fretful porcupine, with rows of poplars, (vain, upstart plants! minions of wealth and fashion!) were then adorned with the vigorous natives of the soil; the lordly oak, the generous chestnut, the graceful elm—while here and there the tulip-tree reared its majestic head, the giant of the forest. Where now are seen the gay retreats of luxury—villas half buried in twilight bowers, whence the amorous flute oft breathes the sighing of some city swain—there the fish-hawk built his solitary nest, on some dry tree that overlooked his watery domain. The timid deer fed undisturbed along those shores now hallowed by the lover's moonlight walk, and printed by the slender foot of beauty; and a savage solitude extended over those happy regions, where now are reared the stately towers of the Joneses, the Schermerhorns, and the Rhinelanders."†

From the Coster house, still standing above Bellevue, a long succession of these delightful places stretched to the salt meadows at Hell-Gate. Here dwelt, or rusticated, besides the families which Irving mentions, those of Beekman, Pearsall, Le Roy, Buchanan, Cruger, Astor, Prime, and Gracie, of Gracie's point, so called "from the fair castle which, like an elephant, it carries upon its back".‡ But we turn from them to the less numerous residences which existed, and in one or two instances, still exist, on the western or Hudson margin of the island. These were in general more remarkable for their architecture than the others, and we happen to be better acquainted, personally, with them and their history.

* Hist. N. Y., B. II., Ch. VIII.

† Id., B. II., Ch. IV.

‡ Ibid.

After glancing for a moment at the Richmond Hill house, which stood at the corner of Varick Street and Charlton, and was once occupied by Abraham Mortier, paymaster-general of the royal forces, and afterwards by John Adams and by Aaron Burr—a building of much elegance, in which, when enlarged into a theatre, we remember to have attended a performance by the second Italian operatic troupe which ever visited New York, but to whose well-known history we have nothing new to add—let us commence an imaginary northward journey from the present Union Square. Immediately above its destined location, and on the Eastern side of Broadway, was the handsome brick and brown stone structure of the Bank; for, in those times of epidemic yellow fever, Banks too had their “places”, as well as bankers. In Dr. Mitchell’s “Picture of New York”, 1807, it is called the *new* building for the Manhattan company, “intended to accommodate all those who do business with the bank, in case sickness should cause the inhabitants to quit the lower wards of the city”. Off to the left lay Greenwich, a populous summer-colony of the prosperous and prudent townsmen. “In this place”—says Mitchell—“the bank of New York and the Branch bank have buildings ready to receive their officers and ministers in cases of alarm from distemper. And many of the citizens have houses and places of business, to serve turn, while the sickness lasts”. These annual flittings, it thus appears, were a necessity of New York life till after the last visitation of the pestilence, in 1822, in which year, we may be pardoned for observing, the writer of these lines became one of the city’s infant denizens.

As the wayfarer of those days pursued his journey along the Bloomingdale road, he saw on its river side, at Forty-third street between Eighth avenue and Ninth, the “Hermitage”, the fine mansion of the Nortons, situated on a lane which led to Norton’s cove. This latter spot was the resort of the boys of our time from the distance of miles, for the purpose of bathing, crowded, as it always was, with rafts, which afforded them both convenience and sport. We have Mr. Dawson’s authority for the statement that the property had previously belonged to John Morin Scott, one of the most learned members of the New York bar, and an early “Son of Liberty”.* He mentions also that it afterwards became a “Temple of Health”, and we well remember the title as painted in staring characters on the side towards the main road, and indicating, probably, that some quackery was going on there. There is an interesting lithographic view of this house in the “Manual of the Corporation” for 1858. The four Ionic columns of the portico, tall and lank, and divided—of course against all rule—by the balcony of the second story, are nevertheless made to harmonize with the mass of the exterior in a sort of Anglo-Italian symmetry and proportion, of which the secret seems now to be lost. But the force of early association perhaps warps our taste. In its last days, before its recent demolition, this goodly mansion, almost enclosed in the interior of a block which had grown up around it, presented a forlorn yet still imposing appearance. Its site is now a coal-yard.

Between the river and the road, where Tenth avenue and Seventieth street cross it, was the country residence of Jacob Barker, the unpopular financier. His house is still there, a small and plain frame edifice, intended as a makeshift only till he could erect a finer one on the water-front of his land. This purpose was never carried out. But a beautiful terraced garden with flights of stone steps, and a stone dairy through which ran a natural stream which was then dammed up by a massive semi-circular wall and formed a fish-pond, gave evidence of the extent of his original designs. Now the material of all these constructions, which was chiefly brown sand-stone, was derived, as we were most credibly informed while living close by, from the Government House at the Bowling Green. This residence of the Governors of the State, as it was during George Clinton’s administration and that of John Jay, was removed in 1815; and the seven brick dwellings, now all converted into places of business, which extend from Whitehall street to State, and look up Broadway, were erected on its site. The “nouveaux riches”, who lived in them and gave occasion to the sneering name “Mushroom Row”, are already—such are the rapid transformation-scenes of American social life—regarded as patricians, and founders of noble lines.

Hurrying by another frame house, one of awkward and uncouth appearance, which still remains, at the intersection of Seventy-second street, once owned by Lieut. Gov. Broome, afterwards by the family of Boggs, and where, on the authority as before of neighboring tradition, we record that Talleyrand once sojourned, though whether as owner, tenant, or lodger, we are unable to depose, we will rest at Burnham’s once famous hostelry, on the corner of Seventy-ninth street. If perhaps we be charged with maundering somewhat thus far, we have here, we think, what will arouse and interest the reader, and repay him for our companionship. Let him read this extract which we have made from a city paper of Dec. 1, 1777:

“On Wednesday Morning, the 26th of November, a Party of Rebel Troops landed at Bloomendale, about Six Miles from this City, near Brigadier General De Lancey’s, robbed and plundered his House of the most valuable Furniture and Money, set the House on Fire before Mrs. De Lancey, her two Daughters, and two other young Ladies could remove out of it, which was effected through the Flames in only their Bed-Dresses; when they were most cruelly insulted, beat, and abused, and what Money they had, taken from them; an Infant Grandchild in a most barbarous Manner thrown on the Ground; at

* Introduction to “New York City during the American Revolution”, p. 29.

last in their Fright and Distress they ran different Ways in the Woods, where they remained till Day-Light, exposed to every Inclemency. Five White Men were made Prisoners, and two Infant Children consumed in the Flames. The whole exhibited such a Scene of Savage Barbarity as is scarcely to be met with in History or Romance.

"The Rebels who committed the above Outrage, we hear, were a Party of about twenty Continental Troops, sent from Connecticut, for no other purpose than to destroy General De Lancey's House, with Promise of great Rewards should they complete the Work. They retreated by Way of Secacus, called at a poor Man's House there, and robbed him of all the Family Clothing, Blankets, &c., &c."

This little incident belongs to a series of eccentricities which we have been as yet too tender of the reputation of our brave revolutionary patriots, fully to investigate. We have been a little too prone to make demigods of them; and would have done so, but for the printing-press, which is too matter-of-fact for us. The De Lanceys were probably, all things considered, the most prominent and influential family in the province of New York in the years just previous to the war, and their name has still a certain prestige among us, though they chose the losing side in the struggle, and saw their great possessions confiscated at its close. Oliver, the Brigadier General, was brother of James, the celebrated Chief-Justice and Lieutenant-Governor, who died in 1760; and he was himself the Senior Loyalist Officer in commission during the contest with England. From Sabine's "Loyalists", where much information is contained about all the De Lanceys, we derive a few more facts in regard to the destruction of the General's house. The marauders were, it seems, "a small party of the Whig 'advanced water-guard'", who passed the British ships in the night. "Mrs. De Lancey, who was very deaf, hid herself in a dog-kennel, and came near being burned there. Her daughter Charlotte, and Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Floyd (who married John Peter De Lancey, and was the mother of the wife of Cooper, the great American novelist) wandered about in the woods, for hours, barefooted, and in their night-clothes."

This "raid" of the rebels of the time is surely a notable occurrence in the annals of our city, and we wonder that neither is it remembered nor the scene of it known. After considerable unavailing research and inquiry, we were informed by the late Dr. Abraham V. Williams, a man of much intelligence, and at one time President of the Board of Education, who practised his profession at Bloomingdale for more than twenty-five years, that the house stood on the site of Burnham's subsequent hotel. We are confident that he was correct, and also that the walls, which are substantially constructed of stone, are those of the original building. The earliest occupant, of whom we have any personal knowledge, was a Mr., or Baron, Vandenheuevel, who may have been its restorer after the conflagration.

We have exhausted only about half of our materials, yet perhaps the entire patience of the reader. We confess to a peculiar feeling of interest in our few ancient country mansions, a feeling which it would be difficult and tedious thoroughly to analyze; and we may, therefore, at some future time, venture on a second Part of these slight notes; particularly in case we receive any intimation of sympathy with that warming of the imagination which we are wont to experience when prying into the mystery of some venerable homestead, suggestive as it is and yet so mute. Of such a spot may be said in the delicate wording of the poet,

"The place is silent and aware
It has had its scenes, its joys and crimes,
But that is its own affair."†

THE CAROLINA MEDAL.

[Read before the American Numismatic and Archæological Society, Thursday evening, Feb. 27, 1868.]

In a sale of Coins and Medals, the property of William A. Lilliendahl, which took place at the rooms of Bangs, Merwin & Co., Dec. 15, 16, and 17, 1863, the attention of amateurs was for the first time directed to the so-called Carolina Medal. The Catalogue, which is one of the most copious and careful productions of William H. Stobridge, mentions it, at page 44, in the following words:

"753. Medal struck by order of the Legislature of North-Carolina, to commemorate the separation of the Province into North and South-Carolina, in 1736. Obv. GROWING ARTS ADORN EMPIRE; in the exergue, CAROLINE PROTECTING 1736. A very beautiful figure of the Queen, wearing a crown and holding a sceptre; she is represented as watering a plantation of young palmettos. On the rev. King George II., in the character and costume of Pallas, is standing amidst emblems of glory, art, and industry, with the inscription BOTH HANDS FILLED FOR BRITAIN; in the exergue, GEORGE REIGNING. A longer account of this medal may be found in 'Johnson's Traditions and Reminiscences', page 4. A very beautiful medal in silver; size 24".

The sum which it brought on that occasion was Sixteen Dollars, and the result was that many others have since been brought to light, so that it can now be obtained, in silver, for from three to

* *Gaine's New York Gazette*, Monday, Dec. 1, 1777.

† Robert Browning. "By the Fireside." St. 20.

five dollars, according to condition. We extract from "Traditions and Reminiscences, chiefly of the American Revolution in the South", by Joseph Johnson, M. D., of Charleston, S. C., the passage referred to above by Mr. Strobridge:

"The separation of North from South-Carolina is an era in their history. This separation was officially ordered in 1729, but not effected until 1732. The line was not run until 1735, and then very incorrectly executed. In 1763, instructions were received from the King for a re-survey, which, when completed, gave South-Carolina several of her best districts. These, previous to their being sub-divided, were known only by the aggregate name of 'new acquisition'. Chester District was certainly a part of it. After the revolution, another error was discovered, and repeatedly discussed with some warmth by the Governors of the two States. The tax collectors of both States contended for the right to extend each his warrants over the disputed portion of country, and the inhabitants refused to pay either, until the doubt was settled. It was finally adjusted about the year 1801, during the first administration of Gov. John Drayton.

"To commemorate the separation of the northern from the southern part of the Province, a silver medal was struck in the year 1736, by order of the North-Carolina Legislature, only one of which is now known to us. This was found in a neglected cabinet in Philadelphia, in the year 1845, and a copy of it obtained in type metal by Dr. Blanding, late of Camden, South-Carolina, and sent to his nephew, Captain William Blanding, of Charleston.*

"The obverse represents Caroline, Queen of George II., with a sceptre in her right hand; watering, with her left, a grove of young palmettos. Her figure divides these palmettos into two parts, representing the two Carolinas. The exergue is 'Caroline protecting', 1736, and over all, the words, 'Growing Arts Adorn Empire'. The reverse represents George II., in the costume of Minerva—goddess of all the liberal arts and sciences—leaning on a spear in his right hand, at the foot of which are grounded the implements of war—as the shield, helmet, sword, quiver, lance, standard, &c., over which the laurel waves, emblematic of victory. In his left hand, the palm leaf (the emblem of constancy, faithfulness, patience and triumph), waving over the emblem of the arts, represented by a globe, scroll, pallet and brushes, volumes, bust, &c., crowned with an olive branch. Exergue, 'GEORGE REIGNING'. And over all, in the border, BOTH HANDS FILLED FOR BRITAIN".†

The idea of George II. "in the costume of Minerva" is amusing enough, and Mr. Strobridge's "in the character and costume of Pallas" is equally so, though more in accordance with fact. The personage is most decidedly feminine, and we never read that even Elagabalus could transform himself into a woman, anatomically, such as this one is; or that art ever represented a king as a goddess.

But the real puzzle in regard to this Medal is yet to be mentioned. In the Catalogue of the Collection of Dr. Richard Mead, published in 1755, for the gift of a copy of which we are indebted to our excellent friend Mr. Cogan, occurs on page 202 the following singular description:

"BOTH HANDS FILLED FOR BRITAIN. GEORGE REIGNING. REV., GROWING ARTS ADORN EMPIRE. CAROLINE PROTECTING, 1736. This is Mr. Jernagan's Silver Medal or Ticket for the Sale of his famous Cistern".

Who was Jernagan? What was his Cistern? Mr. Bushnell, from whom Mr. Strobridge, through Mr. Bishop, derived his reference to Johnson's "Traditions and Reminiscences", explored the whole matter, in days gone by, but without success. He even wrote on the subject to the late Henry Cureton, Keeper of the British Museum, who replied that he knew nothing about it, except that the piece was always known in England as the "Cistern Medal". It seems certain, therefore, that it was *not* struck by order of the North-Carolina Legislature, though the division of the Carolinas, being an event of the day, was with propriety made use of by Jernagan as a device for his ticket. Was the "Cistern" a Vase, or other large piece of plate, which he could not otherwise dispose of? This is our conjecture, but it may be quite erroneous. The letter T appears in the lower right hand portion of each face, and may perhaps serve as a clew to the secret.

We know of at least two impressions of this Medal in Copper, and Mr. Bushnell has met with an English Catalogue which names one in Gold.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.—*The American Numismatic and Archæological Society will be at all times pleased to communicate with any individuals or Societies, on Numismatic or Archæological topics, to answer questions and give all information desired. Letters of inquiry addressed to "Prof. CHAS. E. ANTHON, Cor. Sec'y, College of the City of New York," will receive prompt attention.*

Regular Meeting, Feb. 13th, 1868.—President Ten Eyck in the chair.

A Report of the Lincoln Medal Committee was received and adopted, and the Committee was instructed to sign the following

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT,

Made the 17th day of February, 1868, between EMIL SIGEL, of New York City, and THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY of the City of New York.

WHEREAS, heretofore said Sigel cut for said Society a set of Dies of a "Lincoln Memorial Medal", and, after some

* Here is inserted a very poor and inaccurate wood-cut of the medal.

† Traditions and Reminiscences, &c. Charleston, 1851, pp. 4-5.

medals were struck off therefrom, said Dies cracked, and it was thereupon agreed that the Society might have and own said cracked set at one-half the original price therefor; when Mr. Sigel made new Dies, but no new Medals therefrom, and for which new set of Dies he charged \$600, included in a bill he has recently rendered to said Society; and there are some questions between them, now agreed to be adjusted as herein provided:—Now THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, and of one dollar, each to the other paid, the parties mutually agree as follows, to wit:

Mr. Sigel shall and will pay or allow to said Society as herein mentioned, the sum of \$720 for and on account of said matters and their expenses, deducting therefrom \$ for tin medals already received by them, and said Society will take, and Mr. Sigel will make and deliver to them, without delay, as many and all medal impressions from said old or new dies, in copper bronzed or tin, as they shall order or desire, at five dollars each for copper bronzed, and one dollar each for tin, until the demand of said Society therefor shall be fully satisfied.

And, for the security of said Society, it is agreed by Mr. Sigel that until said sum of \$720, or the balance thereof, is fully paid and satisfied as aforesaid, said Society is to be deemed to have a first and unincumbered lien upon said old and new Dies, including collar and hub, and the same are hereby granted and pledged to said Society as security for the payment of said \$720, or the balance thereof as aforesaid, although continuing in the possession of said Sigel as aforesaid.

And Mr. Sigel further agrees with said Society, that he will not strike off, or make, or permit or expose to be made, from said old or new dies, any copies or impressions thereof for any person or persons, or Societies, other than the Society named, until said Society shall notify him that their demand therefor is fully satisfied: and this agreement shall be deemed, and is an adjustment of Mr. Sigel's said bill rendered to said Society.

And, after all the terms of this agreement shall have been duly fulfilled, then the sole right and title to the aforesaid dies, old and new, shall be in the said Sigel, and in no other person or Society.

Witness the hands of the two parties the day and year first above written; on the part of said Society by one or more officers or an authorized Committee thereof.

(Signed),

Witness, C. KUNZE.

EMIL SIGEL.

E. Y. TEN EYCK, } Members of Lincoln Medal Committee,
CHAS. E. ANTHON, } for and in behalf of Society.

The following gentlemen were elected Corresponding Members: Alfred B. Taylor, Robert C. Davis, Emil Kauffman, and H. H. Furniss, all of Philadelphia; E. B. Wynn, of Watertown, N. Y.; C. Wylls Betts, of New Haven, Conn.; Francis Lepère, of St. Louis, Mo.; F. C. Day, Robert Downing, and Thomas Cleneay, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Chas. I. Bushnell, of New York, was proposed for Honorary Membership; and, under suspension of the rules, he was immediately elected. Messrs. J. Carson Brevoort and Benjamin Betts, both of Brooklyn, were proposed as Resident Members, and their election was laid over, under the rules.

Letters were read from Messrs. Bramhall of Washington, Moore of Trenton Falls, Stickney of Salem, and others.

A vote of thanks was unanimously and gratefully tendered to Mr. Geo. H. Lovett, for his gift to the Society of its Corporate Seal, cut by himself.

Dr. A. B. Taylor, of Philadelphia, presented, through Mr. Levick, an impression of the Medal struck in honor of Mr. J. J. Mickley. Several photographs of distinguished numismatists were presented for the Society's Album.

Mr. Sanford exhibited a Quarter-Dollar of 1823, a Half-Dime of 1802, and a Half-Cent of 1796, all from the Mickley Sale, in very fine condition, and extremely rare.

Mr. Perkins, Corresponding Member from Wisconsin, exhibited a Martha Washington Half-Dime, considered the finest specimen known of this interesting coin; also, from the Mickley Collection, a Lord Baltimore Sixpence and Groat, in nearly proof condition, and undoubtedly surpassed by none in this country; from the same source, a set of Chalmers money, the best that has ever been sold at auction. He likewise shewed a Quarter-Eagle of 1796, obtained by him many years ago in Milwaukee, where it had long been in the possession of an old lady; an Oak-tree Twopence; and a Granby or Higley Copper—all in very good condition.

On motion, adjourned.

DANIEL PARISH, JR., *Recording Secretary, pro tem.*

Regular Meeting, Feb. 27th, 1868.—Vice-President Perine in the chair.

The Lincoln Medal Committee having reported that the Agreement with Mr. Sigel had been signed, it was

Resolved: That, with a view to the liquidation of the affairs of the Medal, all such persons as may have impressions of the first Dies in their possession, not paid for or presented, be, and are hereby, requested to return the same immediately to the Society, through Mr. E. Y. Ten Eyck, Chairman of the Committee.

The following letter was received from Mr. Chas. I. Bushnell, and ordered on file:

NEW YORK, Feb. 17th, 1868.

J. N. T. Levick, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 14th, informing me of my election as an honorary member of your Society has been received.

While I fully appreciate the compliment conferred upon me by the Society, among whose members are many of my esteemed personal friends, yet I must, for private reasons, respectfully decline the proffered honor.

In doing this, however, my interest in your proceedings and your success shall in no degree abate. On the contrary, I shall

always take great pleasure in seeing you grow stronger as you grow older, and if, among your sister Societies, you shall some day stand preëminent, no one than I will look upon you with more heartfelt pride and satisfaction.

I will, moreover, assure you, that in the efforts which you may make from time to time, towards the elucidation and development of the beautiful and fascinating science which we all have so much at heart, you will always, as far as my time and humble resources may admit, find in me a faithful ally and a friend.

I tender to the Society, through you, my grateful acknowledgments for their kindly feelings towards me, and my thanks, sir, to you individually, for the very courteous manner in which you have expressed them.

With high respect, I am, sir,

Your obed't servant,

CHAS. I. BUSHNELL.

Letters were read from Messrs. Finotti, of Brookline, Mass.; Nichols, of Springfield, Mass.; Ely, of Elyria, Ohio; C. E. Barnard, Utica, N. Y.; W. S. Appleton, Boston, Mass.; Samuel Heaton, Platt Kill, N. Y.; and several other gentlemen, many of which inclosed a photograph of the writer.

Prof. Anthon read a Paper on the "Carolina Medal", and was requested to publish it in the JOURNAL.

Messrs. J. Carson Brevoort, and Benjamin Betts, of Brooklyn, were unanimously elected Resident Members.

Mr. John F. McCoy nominated for Corresponding Membership, Mr. John A. Rice, of Chicago, Ill.; and Mr. Levick nominated, for the same, Mr. S. W. Chubbnetl, of Utica, N. Y.; Col. M. J. Cohen, of Baltimore, Md.; Messrs. A. B. Engstrom, Burlington, N. J., and Eben Richards, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.

A great number of remarkable pieces was exhibited by members of the Society. Major C. P. Nichols, of Springfield, transmitted for inspection, through Mr. Levick, a particularly interesting selection from his cabinet, including

1. A gold "Ecu à la Couronne" of Chas. VI. (1380-1422.)

2. A gold "Angel" of Henry VIII. (1509-1547.)

3. A very curious "*Klippe*," or square piece, of silver, bearing obv., a boy riding a stick with the head and fore legs of a horse; in the field to his right 16, to his left 50; *leg.* FRIEDEN GEDÄCHTNUS. IN NÜRN: (Remembrance of Peace in Nuremberg); rev., the imperial eagle, and beneath, in five lines: VIVAT FERDINAND, III: ROM: IMP: VIVAT.

As the briefest and most effectual way of conveying to our readers a knowledge of this quaint "*Stecken-Reuther-Pfennig*", Stick-Rider, or Hobby-horse, Penny, as it is called, we here translate a page from Kundmann's "*Nummi Singulares*", published at Breslau and Leipsic, 1731:

"After it had pleased the Most High God to rejoice, with the Peace concluded, 1648, at Munster and Osnaburg, Germany, almost totally ruined by the Thirty Years' War, a Convention was held in 1650, at Nuremberg, and therein it was deliberated and resolved how best to evacuate and free the cities and places still possessed by the Swedes. At this was present the Imperial Lieutenant-General, Octavius Piccolomini, Duke of Amalfi, as the Emperor's principal Plenipotentiary. Since now through this assembly the Peace first reached its actual consummation, therefore all in Nuremberg, man and woman, old and young, were full of joy; especially, however, a certain wag, who conceived the idea of reporting among the children, that my lord Plenipotentiary had determined to present every child which on the following day, a Sunday, should appear before his house, riding on a stick-horse, a silver Remembrance-Penny. This was rapidly circulated among the youth, and on the morrow an exceedingly great multitude of such hobby-riders gathered before the Duke's house, frisking and leaping, and as their horses could not neigh, supplying the deficiency with their own mouths. Piccolomini wondered what this squadron of cavalry wanted or signified; but when he learned the cause, he laughed at it, and bade them return in a week, equipped in the same manner. Meanwhile he had these four-cornered silver-pennies, each of which weighs about a drachm, struck; and on the appointed day, when the hobby-riders appeared in greater numbers than before, he distributed them among the crowd, founding thereby a lasting memorial of this peaceful and joyful Hobby-ride."

4. A silver medal, on the marriage of Philip Reinhard, Count of Hanau, with Caroline Wilhelmina, Princess of Saxony, 1705; bearing, obv., their busts facing; and, rev., the city of Hanau.

5. A silver medal, dated June 12, 1761, on the fiftieth, or jubilee, celebration of the wedding-day of one of the Von Meinertzhagen family in Cologne, with the two busts, and an emblematic reverse. It is remarkable that Jacob, the father of this Meinertzhagen, whose name was Gerhard, had also commemorated his "*Goldene Hochzeit*", in 1724, in the same manner, by striking two Medals, of different sizes. They were great bankers in Cologne.* And here we would call attention to this elegant and permanent mode of celebrating a "Golden Wedding". It was adopted by Robert and Louisa Gilmor, of Baltimore, as long ago as 1821, and their beautiful Medal, by Faulkner, is highly prized by collectors. Since then, however, the idea appears to have remained dormant.

6. A silver medal of Christian VIII., King of Denmark, with a fine statuesque reverse by Thorvaldsen.

7. Six Medalets in copper, recently cut by Bolen, viz.: Washington; Jefferson; Jackson; Webster; Lincoln; and himself, with a reduced "*Libertas Americana*" as a reverse.

On motion, adjourned.

DANIEL PARISH, JR., *Recording Secretary, pro tem.*

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday, February 6, at the usual hour. The Secretary read the report of the previous meeting and a letter from Prof. C. E. Anthon, accepting Honorary Membership in the Society. Dr. Green presented to the Society a catalogue of the collection of coins

* Cassell, "*Sammlung etlicher Jubelhochzeit-Münzen*". Bremen, 1759, *Zuschrift*, and p. 31.

belonging to Yale College, with a supplement issued since. The Secretary exhibited again the rubbing of a curious Indian silver medal mentioned in the report of the December meeting, and called the attention of members to a printed account of a similar piece. It is found in Willis's "Current Notes" for 1852, as follows:—"THE KING OF PAMUNKIE. I enclose you an accurate drawing, two-thirds of the actual size, of a silver plate, or badge, which came into my possession some time since with a number of medals. It is but a trifling affair, but should you think it worthy a place in your interesting 'Current Notes', perhaps some of your numerous readers may be able to throw some light as to the whereabouts of the dominions of so august a personage as 'Ye King of Pamunkie'. From the engraving being apparently of the time of Queen Anne, I have thought it probable that it may have been worn by the President or Chairman of one of the numerous coffee-house clubs of that period, 2 Tavistock street. B. R. TAYLOR."—The drawing is almost identical in design with the rubbing communicated by Mr. Brock, except that the latter reads 'Patomacke'. The origin of both is entirely unknown. Mr. Pratt exhibited about twenty gold coins, taken out of a large lot sold for weight; some of them were interesting and uncommon. The Secretary showed four pieces lately added to his collection. The first is the dollar of 1804, from the Mickley sale; the second is the Washington half-dollar of the regular type, in silver, from the same source; the third is the "Sommer Islands" copper, also from Mr. Mickley's collection; the fourth is a Washington, in silver, which is exceedingly rare in that metal, though not in copper; in which, however, it is far from common. It is that variety of the patterns of 1792, which has a curved row of twelve stars over the head of the eagle on the reverse; this specimen is in beautiful condition. These pieces were examined with great interest and admiration. The Society adjourned at about 4½ P. M.

WM. S. APPLETON, Secretary.

At the Annual Meeting of this Society on Thursday, Jan. 2, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Jeremiah Colburn.

Treasurer—Henry Davenport.

Vice-President—John Phelps Putnam.

Secretary—William Sumner Appleton.

Regular meetings of the Society are held on the first Thursday of each month, at 4 P. M.

RHODE ISLAND NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION.

Regular Meeting, Feb. 22, 1868.—Meeting called to order at the usual time, the President in the chair. It was expected that the "RF" question would be decided at this meeting; but as several members who have taken great interest in the matter were necessarily absent, the case was again postponed; being so amended as to include the explanation of the double L on the Louisiana coppers of 1721-22.

The President exhibited several rare Washington pieces; including the large and small eagle cents of 1791, and two varieties of the "Success to the United States" medal, the smaller one in splendid condition.

Mr. C. T. Metcalf exhibited a fine set of U. S. cents; and a collection of Colonials and Washington pieces, which were greatly admired; especially an uncirculated 1820 cent, stamped on the obverse with the head of Washington, and on the reverse with that of Lafayette, a fine specimen of the Libertas Americana in white metal, and a Chalmers Shilling in very fine condition.

At the meeting in March, there will be an exhibition of United States cents.

G. D. HERSEY, Secretary.

THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

A stated meeting of this society was held at its hall, last Thursday evening, President Eli K. Price in the chair.

The usual routine of business was transacted. Letters were read from Mrs. Sparks; the British Museum; the London Society of Antiquaries; John Evans, Esq., England; and others.

A number of valuable donations were received, among which were:

1. A Map of Philadelphia, by John Read, in three sections, published somewhere about 1734, from Abraham L. Pennock, to whom, on motion, the thanks of the society were tendered for his valuable present.

2. From B. B. Comegys, Esq., on behalf of the Philadelphia National Bank, a number of specimens of the bills of the Philadelphia Bank prior to its becoming a national bank.

3. From Dr. Linderman, Director of the United States Mint, a pattern five cent piece, which was considered by the society a great improvement upon the present issue.

4. From John Evans, Esq., Nash Mills, Hernel Hempstead, England, his work on the coins of the ancient Britons.

5. From Wenderoth, Taylor & Brown, imperial photographs of Washington and Lincoln.

6. From William Duane, Esq., a copy in plaster, of a unique clay medallion, in his possession, of Benjamin Franklin, made during the Doctor's sojourn in France.

Mr. Henry Phillips, A. M., the corresponding secretary of the society, then read a paper on Cozumel.

Dr. Brinton still further elucidated the same subject in some valuable remarks.

Messrs. Lovett, Warner, Key, and Paquet, were requested to furnish the society lists of the dies severally cut by them.

The chairman announced that Dr. Brinton had consented to read, at the next meeting, a paper on the Aztec Calendar, and requested a full attendance of the members.

Several nominations were made and new members elected, after which, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

HENRY PHILLIPS, JR., *Corresponding Secretary.*

A LETTER FROM MR. COGAN.

BROOKLYN, 299 STATE STREET, Feb. 18th., 1868.

MY DEAR SIR: In my first letter, on the subject of the Coin Trade, I was tempted to address the Editor of the JOURNAL, for the purpose of making a few remarks, in consequence of my name having been mentioned in two articles, which I felt called upon to notice, and not with the most remote idea, of troubling your readers with a second, and still less a third communication: and if any friend had told me a year ago, that I should ever be induced to write a *single* article in the JOURNAL, I should most unquestionably have advised him to ascertain the *shortest* road to the *nearest* Lunatic Asylum in New York City. Having, however, been induced already to write two articles on the Coin question, some of my too partial friends have urged me to write a third, and as you have had the temerity of paying me the compliment, to back their request, I confess I am not altogether unwilling to consent; and especially as I have long had a secret wish to say something on the cause of the late and present prices of Coins. I now submit the following, for your perusal, which, if, on any occasion, when you are short of more interesting matter, you think proper to publish, you can do so. At the same time you have the most unqualified authority to alter or abridge in any way—and I shall not feel at all hurt, if you should deem the most appropriate place for them—your waste basket. The high prices that Coins, and more especially American Coins, have brought within the last few years, have appeared to many, perfectly incomprehensible, to many more, equally ridiculous, while others have ignored the fact altogether, even in the face of the publication, in the daily papers, of the prices which they have brought at public auction. My present object therefore is to show, not only, that there is nothing at all extraordinary in the matter, but on the contrary, that it is perfectly natural. With the two first classes above referred to, I apprehend very little, if any difficulty; but as for these confounded Doubters, I despair of and care very little about convincing them, as I believe them to belong to a class of persons, who almost doubt "truth to be a liar"; and yet I may be able to show in the course of my remarks, that they are not perfectly invulnerable. Before, however, I make this attempt, I shall have to go back to the period of the first regular issue of the United States Coinage, say to 1793—and begin by stating, what has always to me appeared much more extraordinary than the prices of Coins, and it is, that the Mint authorities did not think it a matter of the slightest moment, to put away, from the commencement, a specimen of each Coin of every denomination, as it came from the Die; and many I have no doubt will be surprised to learn that such has not been the case, but that, up to as late a period as about the year 1824, many of the Coins in the Mint are such as the best Collectors would not put into their Cabinets. It would appear as if it had suddenly occurred to somebody in the Mint establishment that it might be as well, if not important, to have a perfect series of Coins as issued every year; and of course at this time they have been compelled to take them generally from what had been returned to the establishment, the exception being many that had never left the Mint. These are therefore in unexceptionable condition. It still remains an unaccountable fact that no attempt has been made to make the series complete; as, up to the present moment, I believe I am correct in stating, that they have no 1797 half dollars, 1823 quarter, or 1796 half cent in their collection, and have refused, within the last five or six years, to make an exchange for a 1797 half dollar, and have allowed two 1823 quarters to be taken out of old silver that had been returned to be melted down. The cents and half cents have been better selected than the silver, but some few are very poor; for instance the 1799 cent is such a miserable specimen that no good Collector would have it, unless it was as evidence of how little the Mint authorities, in that day, cared about having a fine impression. These observations are not made with any disrespect to the Directors of the Mint of that time or the present; although I do not think it would be an undesirable thing to have the series made complete even now—as it could be done at no great cost and with about as little trouble. For instance, I could myself have supplied the three pieces above mentioned in satisfactory condition within the last two months. It is evident therefore, that up to somewhere about the time stated, there was no general interest manifested in collecting, and I presume it is doubtful, whether more than twenty or thirty persons could have been found, previous to 1820, who collected with any numismatic interest. Some names that occur to me at the moment I will mention: Mickley, Bushnell, Cohen, Stickney, Jewett, Chilton, Allen, Muhlenberg, Neff, Wynn, Shurtleff, Colburn, Roper, Hall, and some few possibly whose names I have never heard. There were doubtless many who would put away any piece that they had taken in circulation, that was either very fine, or that appeared odd and curious, and simply, because they were fine or curious, and not from any real numismatic interest; and hence every now and then, say once in a Blue Moon, which I will take the liberty of interpreting into once in every two or three years, fine and rare Coins startle the Collectors by making their appearance and startle the owners of them as much, by their receiving a very high price for them.

[REMAINDER IN OUR NEXT.]